

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. The following remarks are being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 are currently pending. Claims 18, 22, 25 and 28 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 are independent and claims 1, 5, 6, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 are hereby amended.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-4 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,532,744 to Akiwumi-Assani et al. ("Assani") and U.S. Patent No. 5,724,537 to Jones ("Jones").

Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Assani and Jones in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,510,842 to Phillips et al. ("Phillips").

Claims 1, 5-7 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over EP 0720372 to Kwon in view of Jones.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Phillips in view of Jones.

Claims 2, 23-24 and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Assani and Jones in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,381,145 to Allen et al. (“Allen”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A decoding device for decoding a coded stream, the device comprising ...

detecting means for detecting when all values in a storage means are a first value, selects one of the picture data decoded by the decoding means for which the corresponding values stored in the storage means are a second value, and changes the value stored in the storage means corresponding to the decoding means which decoded the selected picture data, to the first value” (Emphasis added)

The Examiner relies upon Jones to teach the above identified feature of claim 1.

However, the relied upon portions of Jones merely disclose that the buffers are considered in turn, and when any of the buffers are deemed to be READY this automatically cancels the READY-ness of any which was previously flagged as READY, this then being flagged as EMPTY. This works because later picture numbers are stored, by virtue of the allocation scheme, in the buffers that are considered later. *Jones*, col. 249, lines 3-6. *Jones* further discloses that to monitor the status of all of the buffers until it is certain that all frames have been handed over to the display, i.e., all but one of the buffers have status EMPTY, and the other is IN_USE (as the display buffer). *Jones*, col. 258, lines 13-22. Additionally in *Jones*, the display address generator requests a new display buffer, once every vsync, via a two-wire interface. If there is a buffer flagged as READY, then that will be allocated to display by the buffer manager.

If there is no READY buffer, the previously displayed buffer will be repeated. *Jones*, col. 248, lines 61-65.

This is contrary to what instant claim 1 recites. Instant claim 1, specifically, recites detecting means for detecting when all values in a storage means are a first value, selects one of the picture data decoded by the decoding means for which the corresponding values stored in the storage means are a second value, and changes the value stored in the storage means corresponding to the decoding means which decoded the selected picture data, to the first value. Applicants respectfully submit that *Jones* does not teach or suggest this feature of claim 1. Additionally, *Jones* relates to the statuses of buffers and not the decoding means themselves, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, all rejections in view of *Jones* should fail. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or suggest the above identified feature of claim 1. Specifically *Assani*, *Jones*, *Phillips*, *Kwan* and *Allen*, considered either alone, or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest detecting means for detecting when all values in a storage means are a first value, selects one of the picture data decoded by the decoding means for which the corresponding values stored in the storage means are a second value, and changes the value stored in the storage means corresponding to the decoding means which decoded the selected picture data, to the first value, as claimed in claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable. Since claims 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 are similar in scope to claim 1, these claims are patentable for similar reasons.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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